

## CAPITAL HAS CHANCE FOR TEST STATION

Navy Consulting Body to Consider Site for New Laboratory.

### OFFICERS FAVOR THIS CITY

Several Members of General Board Known to Approve Choice of Washington.

The Navy civilian consulting board, headed by Thomas A. Edison, will meet at the Navy Department tomorrow to consider a site for the \$1,000,000 experimental laboratory, for which Washington is a candidate.

Secretary Daniels officially stated today that Washington has not been eliminated from consideration as a site for the plant.

The action of Secretary Daniels, at the suggestion of Mr. Edison, in having Congress strike out from the bill the paragraph designating Washington as the site, gave rise to fears that the Capital would not be considered.

I should have asked Congress to strike out of the bill the name of any particular city," Secretary Daniels said today. "The matter is still open, and Washington will be considered with other suggested sites."

### TO URGE ALEXANDRIA AS ARMOR PLANT SITE

Congressman Carlin Arranges Special Hearing.

The claims of Alexandria to the \$1,000,000 armor plant, authorized in the navy bill, will be heard by Secretary of the Navy Daniels at a special hearing Friday morning. At the same time Jersey City and probably a few other cities may be heard.

Congressman Carlin arranged the hearing for Alexandria when it was found the naval board had not sufficient time to give the Virginia city the audience its claims entitled it to.

Besides Congressman Carlin, other members of the Alexandria committee will present arguments for location of the plant across the Potomac river below Washington, where it will be under direct control of the Navy Department and easy of access for ordnance officials who will have charge of the Government's new manufacturing venture.

Alexandria boosters are prepared to set forth arguments that their city meets all the Government requirements for facilities for manufacture and safety from attack. A brief will be filed on behalf of Alexandria.

Thomas Grant, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, is receiving scores of letters from business and professional men of Washington protesting against the Chamber on its efforts to obtain the Federal armor plate plant for the District.

Many of the writers, according to Mr. Grant, have pledged support to the campaign and promised to bring such influence to bear as they can to have a site in the District selected for the factory.

President Moran and Secretary Grant are making a special tour of the city with a view to having all mercantile establishments of the city cooperate with the Chamber.

### Simple Rites for President's Sister

Body of Mrs. Howe Buried Beside That of Husband at Columbia, S. C.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 18.—With simple ceremony the funeral of Mrs. Annie Howe, wife of President Wilson, was held at noon today.

In deference to the President's wishes, no official cognizance was taken of the occasion. Nevertheless, long lines of people thronged the streets as the funeral party made its way from the station to the First Presbyterian Church, and hundreds stood about the edifice with heads uncovered. A brief service was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. A. W. Blackwood, assisted by the Rev. Thornton Whaling, president of Columbia Seminary.

Interment was made in the family plot at center of the church yard. The committal service, brief and simple, was private. Mrs. Howe rests beside the body of her husband, Dr. George Howe, known here as "The Beloved Physician of Columbia."

En route to the church several hundred automobiles fell into line behind those carrying the members of the President's party, making the funeral cortege almost a procession. Five thousand people lined the streets as they passed and as many more surrounded the church and graveyard.

President Wilson will return at 3 o'clock tonight, going via Washington. He will spend fifteen minutes in the Capital, arriving at 3:50 tomorrow morning. He will reach Shadow Lawn about 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

### Food Disorders in Vienna.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—Food disorders have broken out in Vienna, said a Geneva dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph today.

## U. S. Steel 108 3-8; New Record Price

Figure Today 100 Points Higher Than That of 1902 Panic.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Selling at 100 3/8, a new record price, United States Steel today was up just \$100 a share above the low record which the stock set during the panic of 1902. Today's quotation represents an advance of \$70 from the price at which the stock sold February 1, 1915, just before the regular dividend was passed.

Steel advanced to 100 3/8, and Maxwell Motors common joined the record makers, selling at 92 1/2. Rock Island advanced 1/4, to 19 1/2, and Wabash was strong. Bethlehem Steel opened at 58 1/2. Sales for the first hour were 353,000 shares.

## MAJOR GEN. MILLS STRICKEN AND DIES IN TWELVE HOURS

Chief of Division of Militia Affairs Passes Away at Home Here.

MAJ. GEN. ALBERT L. MILLS, chief of the division of militia affairs, died at his home, 123 K street at noon today after an illness of less than twelve hours. Death was due to pneumonia.

General Mills was stricken while motoring yesterday afternoon, and was stricken during the night. His wife and his daughter, Mrs. Laurson, wife of Lieut. E. L. Laurson, of the Eleventh Cavalry, were with him when he died.

General Mills was only recently promoted to the grade of major general. He had been chief of the division of militia affairs since September, 1912. For two years previous he had been president of the Army War College.

General Mills' connection with the mobilization of militia, it is thought, was a contributory cause in General Mills' death.

### Had Distinguished Record.

General Mills had a distinguished record in the army. He was awarded the Congressional medal of honor July 23, 1892, "for distinguished gallantry in action near Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898, in encouraging troops after being shot through the head and entirely without sight."

### Native of New York.

General Mills, sixty-two years old, was a native of New York. He was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., in 1874. He was assigned to duty with the First United States Cavalry on his graduation and served with that.

### Adjutant General in Militia.

He was appointed a captain and assistant adjutant general of volunteers at the outbreak of the war with Spain and went to Cuba with the first expedition. He participated in the battle of Las Guasimas, at the time of the landing of the troops, and as adjutant general of the cavalry division in which the Rough Riders were included.

### NEW U. S. BATTLESHIP TO BE U-BOAT PROOF

Superdreadnaught California Built to Embody Lessons of War.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 18.—Lessons of the European war, especially those taught by submarine and torpedo attack, have been so well analyzed by United States naval constructors that the new oil and electric superdreadnaught California, which is to be built at the Mare Island Navy Yard, will be able to make port in spite of numerous and serious torpedo wounds, say navy engineers.

### W. P. O'Connor Demands \$15,000 for False Arrest

Wellington P. O'Connor today brought suit in the District Supreme Court to recover \$15,000 damages from Frank L. Averill and John E. Bowers.

The plaintiff alleges the defendants were responsible for his false arrest February 10 last. O'Connor declares he was held in a police station for five hours unlawfully. The petition was filed by Attorney G. A. Barry.

## CHIEF WITNESS IN BLACKMAIL CASE KIDNAPED

Philadelphia Woman Victim Spirited Away by Members of Swindler Gang.

### OPERATIONS WIDESPREAD

Tango Parlors, Hotels, and Clubs Favorite Hunting Grounds for Band.

CHICAGO, Sept. 18.—Kidnaping a Government witness will be the principal charge against the members of the "Blackmail Trust" captured here by Government sleuths in a spectacular raid, and who are alleged to have cleaned up more than a quarter of a million dollars from wealthy men and women in New York, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Chicago, and other cities.

### Fifteen Known Victims.

There are fifteen known victims of the swindling operation. Most of the victims paid high for their indiscretions. One man paid \$40,000 in cash. A woman paid \$35,000. Another paid \$10,000. The smallest amount was obtained from Mrs. Regina A. Klipper, of Philadelphia, who gave up \$500.

It is Mrs. Klipper's testimony that is counted upon by the Government to send the gang to the Federal penitentiary. Mrs. Klipper was kidnaped and spirited to Canada several weeks ago by members of the gang just before she was to appear as a witness against one of their number who had been previously arrested in an Eastern city.

### Business Man Snared.

A business man of New York, whose name is withheld, it is said, was snared by a chorus girl who was a member of the blackmailing gang. The business man lavished money on her. Finally, at her suggestion, he took a trip with her to Boston, Arriving there, he was arrested for violation of the Mann act. A warrant against the business man in a Boston hotel. He was placed under "arrest" for violation of the Mann act. A member of the gang, who is believed to be the man who was being held there to prevent members of the gang reaching her.

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## French Swoop Down on Foe In Armored Planes; British Armored Cars Rout Germans

### AIR SQUADRON LEADS FRENCH TO VICTORY NORTH OF SOMME

Twenty Protected Aeros, Each Carrying Three Guns, Demoralize Germans.

### SETS PRECEDENT FOR WAR

New Plan Expected to Play Important Part in Future Operations at Front.

PARIS, Sept. 18.—For the first time in the history of the world, the French used an airplane squadron to lead the successful attack on the village of Bouchavesnes, north of the Somme, it was learned today.

Twenty fast armored aeroplanes, each mounting three machine guns, one pointing forward and two downward, charged the German lines before the French infantry led their trenches.

Flying high above this charging air column were French bombers who directed the attack several hundred feet below in much the same manner that an officer directs an infantry charge in a conventional battle.

The French fliers swooped low over the German lines as the artillery fire lifted and raked the German trenches with a murderous fire. Prisoners report that this form of attack had a remarkable effect upon the Germans who had survived in their half-ruined trenches the coming storms of French infantry.

It sent them flying in panic down communicating trenches and in some instances caused machine-gun crews to desert their posts.

As the French infantry came on with a rush, the air chargers drove forward and killed many of the Germans. They flew along the roads, turning their machine guns on German reserves being brought into action along the roads leading to Bouchavesnes.

This new use of aeroplanes proved so successful that it is expected to play a most important part in future operations of the war. British fliers, apparently, used the same method successfully in the British advance against the Germans Friday.

### HUGHES OPENS LAST LAP IN HIS CAMPAIGN

Leaves New York With His Wife for Energetic Tour in Seven States.

By PERRY ARNOLD.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Invigorated by a five days' rest, Charles E. Hughes left New York at 8 a. m. today on his second campaign tour.

After making his first tour almost constantly until election day, November 7.

Mrs. Hughes found at the last moment that she could arrange her affairs so as to accompany her husband, and was with the candidate when their train pulled out for what will be one of the most energetic campaign tours attempted by a Presidential candidate.

Hughes will spread his doctrine of Republicanism in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York before he returns here September 23. The scheduled tour averages of fifteen speeches a day.

The Hughes party left in the car "The Nation," which is a special train. The entire train was made up of five cars, to care for the party of thirty-five, including secretaries and newspaper men.

During his trip the nominee will attend three State fairs and will wind up his trip at the informal State Republican convention at Saratoga, N. Y., September 28.

### Pennys to Go to Detroit; Will Spend \$10,000,000

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 18.—The Pennsylvania railroad will spend \$10,000,000 to extend its lines into Detroit, it was announced by Samuel Rea, president of the system, today.

A direct connection with the city has been under consideration for some time, "but the recent unprecedented industrial development there has been such as to make this extension of the Pennsylvania railroad service necessary," he said. "Passenger service will be afforded by the present terminals of the Valley and Erie Marquette railroads."

### New Schedule in Effect On Florida Ave. Car Line

The new schedule on the Florida avenue line of the Capital Traction Company went into effect today. Cars leaving the Navy Yard circled the loop at Seventh street and Florida avenue, instead of proceeding to the wharves. The change means an increased headway of one minute on cars south of the Avenue.

### How a British Officer Sees "Devil Cars"

"They knock down trees like matchsticks; they go clean through a wood."

"They cut up houses and put the refuse under their bellies and walk right over 'em."

"They take ditches like kangaroos; they simply love shell craters—laugh at 'em."

"They are like the ichthyosaurus, the prehistoric monster."

### BRITISH JUBILANT AT SUCCESS OF NEW WAR MONSTERS

Stories of Exploits of Great Fighting Machines on Every Tongue in London.

### CARS CRUSH DOWN HOUSES

Eye-Witnesses Describe Them as More Like Prehistoric Animals Than Mechanism.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—There is but one topic of conversation in London today—the exploits of the new British "devil-cars."

Stories of the huge, metal monsters—more like some fearful prehistoric beast than man's handwork—which eat their way through trenches, over houses, and into the fiercest gunfire unscathed, are on every lip.

There were reports of the new machine before, of course. "Heavily armored motor machine guns of a new style," was the way they have been described in official bulletins.

But this picture is dimmed to insignificance beside that drawn by soldiers and correspondents—unmuzzled at last—who have seen the dread machines in actual operations on the Somme front.

"Like the ichthyosaurus, the prehistoric monster," one British officer at the front called them.

"They knock down trees like match sticks," he said; "they go clean through a wood. They cut up houses and put the refuse under their bellies and walk right over 'em. They take ditches like kangaroos; they simply love shell craters—laugh at 'em."

### Proof Against Bullets.

"They are proof against rifle bullets, bombs, and shell splinters; they just shrug their shoulders and pass on. Nothing but a direct hit from a big shell could hurt them."

When stories were first breathed around about the new monsters—tank cars as their official name—the only (Continued on Second Page.)

### RAYMOND ASQUITH KILLED IN BATTLE

Eldest Son of British Prime Minister One of Victims of Somme Drive.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—Raymond Asquith, son of the British prime minister, has been killed, it was announced today.

He was the eldest son of the prime minister and a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards. The official announcement said that he was killed Friday.

Premier Herbert Asquith has five sons. Three of them have seen service since the beginning of the war. Arthur was wounded at the Dardanelles. Raymond Asquith was recently in France and it is more than probable that he was killed in the great battle of the Somme front Friday when the British resumed the offensive.

### Bremen Now Due Almost Any Hour

All New London on the Lookout for Expected Submarine.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Sept. 18.—New London was excited today—both again and yet—expecting the German merchant submarine Bremen to arrive at any time.

The tug T. A. Scott, Jr., hired by the Eastern Forwarding Company, put out last night when reports were received of a submarine being off Block Island.

This, it is understood, was one of the American submarines maneuvering in these waters, but employees of the tug company said they believed the Bremen was likely to appear at any time. No allied warships are reported off New London.

When the soggy, chill fog lifted from the Thames early today it failed to reveal the Bremen out beyond Eastern point, as was expected. At 2 a. m. a vessel humming like a submarine was heard heading toward the sound beyond the point. Reporters thought they sighted a tug with her, but the humming ceased, all lights were extinguished, and the fog was so thick the craft could not be picked up again.

Soon after 7 this morning three tugs signaled out from beyond the edge of the lifting mist. One had a tow. The submarine hunters thought they were surely a triple convoy for the Bremen, but it developed that one had nothing more than a string of barges and the others were without tow.

The Scott Company tug, which spent last night nervously watching for the Bremen, was one of the three.

### FOUR KILLED AS TRAIN HITS AUTO

Victims of Grade Crossing Accident at Girard.

ERIE, Pa., Sept. 18.—Four persons were killed at the grade crossing of the tracks of the New York Central railroad north of Girard today, when the fast mail train No. 35, westbound, struck the automobile of Mrs. Percy Sieger, of Pittsburgh.

Those killed were: MRS. PERCY SIEGER, Pittsburgh, wife of one of the members of the firm of Sieger Bros.

MRS. K. SHIPMAN, Pittsburgh, believed to be the daughter of Mrs. Sieger.

MRS. MAUDE S. R. SHIPMAN, thirteen, daughter of Mrs. K. Shipman.

NEGRO CHAUFFEUR, name unknown.

### British Navy Fliers Shell German Aerodrome

LONDON, Sept. 18.—British naval aeroplanes successfully bombed the German aerodrome at St. Denis-West-rem, in Belgium yesterday, the admiralty announced today. One of the fliers was forced to land in Holland, where he was intercepted.

## BRITISH GAIN AGAIN, CLOSE IN ON THIEPVAL

Capture of Fresh German Trenches Follows Fall of Mouquet Farm.

### COUNTER-ATTACKS BEATEN

Kaiser's Troops Make Desperate Effort to Regain Ground, But Are Checked.

BERLIN, Sept. 18.—German troops have abandoned Berny, Denicourt, and positions between Barleux and Vermandovillers to the French, it was officially announced this afternoon.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—British troops began closing in upon Thiepval last night, after capturing Mouquet farm, and took several German trenches south of the village, General Haig reported this afternoon.

West of the Mouquet farm, the Germans, resisting desperately the advance of the British pincers, entered a British trench by a heavy counter-attack, but were later driven out.

The Thiepval village position, which has held up the progress of the British left wing since the Somme offensive began, July 1, was made most precarious for the Germans by the loss of the well-fortified Mouquet farm yesterday.

North of Martinpuich, Haig's men improved their position last night, and east of Courcelette a major attack on enemy trenches was successful.

### VIOLENT BOMBARDMENT.

The Germans bombarded various parts of the British line with great violence last night, as if in preparation for a counter-attack.

Forty thousand Germans have been killed, wounded or captured since the Anglo-French allies resumed the offensive on the Somme with battering blows that bent back the Teuton lines.

The fighting continued last night both north and south of the river with the greatest fury. The Germans were still clinging desperately to the village of Denicourt, under heavy French attack, and making counter-attacks against Berny and Vermandovillers, lost to the French yesterday afternoon.

"North of the river British artillery checked one German counter attack after another with storms of shrapnel, and at the same time opened a bombardment of Grandcourt and Le Barre on the two highways leading to Bapaume."

The allied successes have had a most profound effect in Berlin, according to Haig dispatches today. The Germans have been led to believe that the Somme drive had been halted by the inability of the British to capture the Flea-Courcelette line and to break through the German defenses around Thiepval.

The German papers are now preparing the public for the early evacuation of both Peronne and Combes, and pointing out that a retirement on a wide front may become necessary for strategic reasons.

The French shifted their attack south of the Somme yesterday to warn the Germans not to withdraw troops from that sector, re-enforce the battered lines north of the river. The assault was completely successful and deepened the wedge in the German line between Peronne and Combes.

### FRENCH SURROUND DENIECOURT VILLAGE

Savage German Counter Attacks Are All Repulsed.

PARIS, Sept. 18.—French troops completely surrounded the village of Denicourt, south of the Somme, in heavy fighting last night, it was officially announced today.

The Germans counter-attacked savagely on the whole front south of the Somme, where the French scored important gains yesterday.

Three particularly violent attacks were made east of the village of Berny and south of Denicourt, where the French repulsed the onslaughts and then made further progress, completing the encircling movement.

Twelve hundred prisoners and ten mitrailleuses were taken.

According to prisoners of the Tenth Ersatz division, the German losses in fighting south of the Somme yesterday were enormous. Two divisions of the Thirty-eighth battalion were almost annihilated by the French artillery fire that preceded the capture of Berny and Vermandovillers.

North of the Somme the French carried a German trench east of Clercy and repulsed counter-attacks.